



Traffic Safety News

From the Delaware Office of Highway Safety **November 2011**

Are you looking forward to taking a road trip during the holiday season? If so, you are not alone! According to AAA, last year over 25,000 Delawareans traveled more than 50 miles from home during the year-end holidays. The bad news is that Delaware is experiencing an extremely high number of traffic deaths where the victims were not wearing seat belts. Not buckling up doesn't cause a crash, however it has a significant impact on whether or not you'll survive it.

What you need to know

Now more than ever you need to take steps to protect yourself, your friends, and your family while on the roads.

- So far this year, 51 drivers and passengers have been killed in car crashes and 31 (61%) were unbelted compared to 37% this time last year.
- Most unrestrained fatalities occur at night, with most occurring after midnight.
- 93% of those killed are the operator of the vehicle.

What you can do

Whether you are traveling around the corner or across state lines, be sure to take these tips along for the ride:

- **Always wear your seatbelt** – It doesn't matter how far you are driving, who you are with, or whether you are sitting in the front or back seat, it is important that you always buckle up. Unrestrained occupants hit others in the vehicle on impact or may be ejected, where they are four times more likely to be killed in the crash. Don't be a statistic.
- **Encourage others to wear their seatbelt** – If you are the driver, it is your responsibility to make sure that everyone is buckled up. And, if you are the passenger, simply remind the driver that unrestrained passengers can equal big fines. You probably know better ways to spend \$70 than in fees and court costs, and officers will be stepping up seat belt enforcement this Thanksgiving.
- **Respect the sign** - Police will be out in force this holiday season looking for people who are speeding, and driving aggressively. Don't draw attention to yourself by breaking the law. Pace yourself and show respect for the rules of the road.

Drive Safe. Arrive Alive DE.

This message is being sent to you the Office of Highway Safety, who asks you to drive safely at all times. For more information on this and other traffic safety programs, go to www.ohs.delaware.gov.